

REMARKS

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claim 12 was objected to because of informalities. Claim 12 has been amended to recite “sidewalls” instead of “side walls,” as required by the Examiner.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4, 7, 8, 12, 13 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,553,172 issued to Lortie et al. (*Lortie*). Applicant respectfully submits claims 1-4, 7, 8, 12, 13 and 15 are not anticipated by *Lortie* for at least the reasons set forth below.

Claim 1 recites, in part, the following:

a channel array capable of being coupled with the frame, the channel array including a number of channels, each channel for routing at least one cable from one of the blades and towards one side of the rack **wherein each channel is defined by a generally semicircular channel floor and two opposing channel sidewalls extending from the channel floor**, each of the channels of the channel array extends along an approximate ninety degree arc

Thus, claim 1 recites that each channel is defined by a generally semicircular channel floor.

Lortie is cited as disclosing the limitations of claim 1. Specifically, *Lortie* is cited as disclosing that each channel is defined by a generally semicircular channel floor. The Office action states, with reference to Figures 3-5 of *Lortie*, that separating members 42 represent opposing channel sidewalls extending from the channel floor. However, following this interpretation of *Lortie*, Figures 3-5 clearly show that separating members 42 do not extend from a channel floor because there is no channel floor disclosed in *Lortie*. Thus, *Lortie* cannot teach or disclose that each channel is defined by a generally semicircular channel floor. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits claim 1 is not anticipated by *Lortie*.

Claims 2-4, 7, 8, 12, 13 and 15 depend from claim 1. Given that dependent claims necessarily include the limitations of the claims from which they depend, Applicant respectfully submits claims 2-4, 7, 8, 12, 13 and 15 are not anticipated by *Lortie* for at least the reasons set forth above.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 5, 6, 9-11, 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Lortie*, and further in view of various other cited references: specifically, claims 5 and 9 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,396,992 issued to Debal (*Debal*); claim 6 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,586,680 issued to Nelson (*Nelson*); claim 10 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,937,461 issued to Donahue (*Donahue*); Claim 11 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,766,093 issued to McGrath et al. (*McGrath*); and claims 16-17 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,686,541 issued to Chan (*Chan*). Applicant notes that the examination of the claimed invention and the application of these numerous references is a significant task; Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough examination and the thorough analysis of the references.

Applicant respectfully submits these claims are not rendered obvious by the cited references for at least the following reasons. Each of the rejections made above is based on the application of *Lortie*, shown above to be defective with respect to independent claim 1, from which each of the above-listed dependent claims depends. The cited references do not cure the deficiencies of *Lortie* noted above with respect to the independent claim. Given that *Lortie* fails to teach at least one limitation of claim 1, the dependent claims are nonobvious, at least for failing to teach or suggest all of the claim limitations of claim 1. See MPEP § 2143.03.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks set forth above, Applicant submits that claims 1-13 and 15-17 are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.


Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account number 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated:

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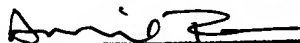
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